1: Holmberg--7 [2] (1941-42) 1950 Siriono
116, 136

"Present in the area, but not in the abundance that most people are wont to imagine they exist in tropical forests, are the most common types of Amazon Valley fauna. The principal mammals are tapir, jaguar, puma, capybara, deer, peccary, paca, coati, agouti, monkey, armadillo, anteater, opossum, otter, and squirrel. Bats are a perennial pest."

1: Holmberg--7 [3] (1941-42) 1950 Siriono
116, 136

"Land and waterfowl are numerous. The king of these birds is the harpy eagle. Likewise present, and in greater numbers, are the king vulture and the black vulture, which are almost always seen in the sky gliding like planes in search of carrion. Game fowl are also plentiful, especially the curassow„ guan, wild duck, macaw, toucan, partridge, egret, cormorant, hawk, pelican, plover, kingfisher, trumpeter, spoonbill, and parrot. On the pampa one also frequently encounters the South American ostrich and varieties of ibis."

1: Holmberg--7 [4] (1941-42) 1950 Siriono
116, 136

"Of the reptiles, alligators and tortoises are plentiful. Occasionally one sees a tegu or an iguana. More rarely encountered are snakes, including the anaconda, the fer-de-lance, the bushmaster, the rattler, and coral snakes.

The rivers and lakes of the area are well stocked with fish. Among the principal kinds are the palometa, the pacú, the parapatinga, the tucunaré, several kinds of catfish, and the sting ray. Also present but rarely caught is the pirarucú, the largest bony fresh-water fish in the world. Not infrequently seen sporting in the lakes and rivers are schools of fresh-water porpoises, which may come so close as to upset one's canoe when traveling by water. There are few shellfish and mollusks in these inland waters."

1: Holmberg--7 [5] (1941-42) 1950 Siriono
116, 136

"Only one who has traveled in the region can appreciate the myriad forms of insect life that harass the inhabitants. Since a great part of the country is swamp for at least 6 months of the year, mosquitoes of all kinds (and of which the area is never free) can breed unhampered, and, as night falls, these insects, together with gnats and moths, descend upon one by the thousands. During the day, when these pests retire to the swamps and the depths of the forest, their place is taken by innumerable varieties of deer flies and stinging wasps. When traveling by water during the day, one is also perennially pestered by tiny flies which settle on the uncovered parts of one's body by the hundreds and leave minute welts of blood where they sting.

No less molesting are the ants, most of which are stinging varieties. The traveler in the forest soon learns what kinds to avoid. Especially unpleasant are those which inhabit the tree called palo santo, the sting of a few of which will leave one with a fever, and the tucondera, an ant about an inch in length whose bite causes partial paralysis for an hour or two."

1: Holmberg--7 [6] (1941-42) 1950 Siriono
116, 136, 857

"In addition to the ants, mosquitoes, and flies, there are scorpions and spiders whose bites may also cause partial paralysis and for whose presence one must be continually on the lookout, and sweat bees, which drive the perspiring traveler to a fury in trying to escape them. Some mention should also be made of the wood ticks, which range in size from a pin point to a fingernail. During the dry season as many as a hundred may drop from a disturbed leaf on to a person as he passes by. One of the most common pastimes of the Indian children, in fact, is picking off wood ticks from returning hunters."

1: Holmberg--24 (1941-42) 1950 Siriono
116, 224, 136

"The animals most frequently bagged are monkeys, of which there are several kinds in the area. Most abundant is a species of capuchin monkey, called keN. If a hunter comes back from the chase with anything, he is most likely to have one or two keN in his catch. These monkeys travel in groups as large as a hundred, and, as there are always many young ones in the band, their whistling can be heard from a great distance away. Upon hearing these sounds, the hunter stops and whistles like the monkeys (I was never able to distinguish the whistle of a monkey from that of a hunter), gradually bringing them closer to his post. By hiding behind a tree, he is usually able to shoot one or two before the rest of the band sees him, becomes frightened, and begins to disperse. When this occurs, he selects one of the larger monkeys and gives chase, trying to drive it into the open where it can be shot. If in flight the monkey hides momentarily in the thick foliage above, the hunter tries to rout it out by tugging on one of the lianas which grow to the ground from almost every tree. Getting into position to shoot one of these monkeys, however, is not easy, as they move from tree to tree with great rapidity and stop only momentarily. Moreover, the underbrush below is extremely dense with lianas and spines, so that a hunter's progress is often impeded to such an extent that he loses his prey."

1. Holmberg--24 [2] (1941-42) 1950 Siriono
116, 224, 136

"Next in abundance to the keN are the long-haired, black spider monkeys called erú-bat. These are more highly prized than the keN because of their size (10 to 20 pounds). Spider monkeys are expecially valued during the rainy season, because at this time they are very fat from eating the wild fruits that mature in February, March, and April. Sometimes these monkeys have as much as a half-inch of fat on their bellies.

Spider monkeys are chased and bagged in the same manner as the above-mentioned keN but are less difficult to shoot because of their greater size and sluggishness. They often await their fate, shaking the branches of a tree at the hunter. Nevertheless, they may cause the hunter a considerable amount of trouble, since they generally break his arrow between their hands when dying and, once dead, they are able to hang to a branch with their strong prehensile tails for as long as 24 hours, thus forcing the hunter to climb the tree to retrieve them."

1: Holmberg--24 [3] (1941-42) 1950 Siriono
116, 136, 224

"A third type of monkey that contributes considerably to the food supply is the howler or téndi. Unlike the spider monkey, the howler does not travel in large bands but in polygynous family groups that vary in size from a male and two females to a male and six females. When hunting the howler, an Indian usually tries to bag the male first; the females will not then move from the area, and he can hunt them down one by one. After the male has been killed, the females often cluster together high in a tree, from which they do not move, and the aforementioned method of cooperative hunting can be applied to kill them.

In addition to the types of monkeys already mentioned, there are three smaller varieties that the Siriono occasionally hunt but which do not contribute much to the food supply. These are a small owl monkey, called yikína, and two varieties of squirrel monkeys, called giñeti and ngí. They are hunted in the same manner as the others, being chased from tree to tree until they are bagged."

1: Holmberg--24 [4] (1941-42) 1950 Siriono
116, 223, 136

"Next in importance to monkeys in supplying meat for the camp are the numerous land and waterfowl of the area. These include, chiefly, several varieties of guan (yáku), curassow (bítoN), macaw (kirínde), toucan (yisádi), parrot (yikána), duck (yéi), cormorant (míNgwa), partridge (námbu), hawk (ngída), egret (gwaríši), and vulture (urúbu). On the pampa there are other large birds, such as the South American ostrich (ngidáči-baia), but as the Siriono with whom I lived were strictly a forest people, these were never hunted. All birds are shot with the bow and a barbed, chonta-headed arrow. They are usually brought into range by careful stalking or by imitating their calls."

1: Holmberg--24 [5] (1941-42) 1950 Siriono
116, 224, 136

"The pursuit of the collared peccary (tai) and the white-lipped peccary (čiásu) constitutes an important part of the chase and contributes much to the meat supply. The former, which are usually observed foraging in the forest in groups of from 2 to 10, are quite abundant, and the latter, which are sometimes found in bands of as many as 200, are not infrequently encountered."

1: Holmberg--25 [4] (1941-42) 1950 Siriono
116, 224, 136

"The Siriono who wander in those regions west of the Rio Blanco, where there is open country, frequently encounter the large pampa deer (kiíkwandúsu). Those who inhabit the forest country east of the Rio Blanco most often meet a smaller variety of forest deer (kiíkwa)."

1: Holmberg--26 [2] (1941-42) 1950 Siriono
116, 136

"The alligator (yikári ekwásu) is one animal which is truly abundant in the area, particularly during the dry season when the waters are low and when they lie on the sand banks to sun themselves or come further inland to lay their eggs."

1: Holmberg--26 [7] (1941-42) 1950 Siriono
116, 224, 136

"The jaguar (yákwa) and the puma are rarely encountered in the forest. They are mostly found on the pampa. Only one large jaguar and three small ones were killed by the Indians while I was living with them. Jaguars are shot, either in the trees or on the ground, with bamboo-headed arrows."

1: Holmberg--26 [8] (1941-42) 1950 Siriono
116, 224, 136

"The giant anteater (antandíša), being a slow animal, is generally killed with a club. Only in case one is discovered in a tree is it shot with a bow and arrow. The same may be said for the smaller variety (antanbúǰa). The honey bear when encountered tapping a hive of wild bee honey is shot with the bow and arrow."

1: Holmberg--26-27 (1941-42) 1950 Siriono
116, 224, 136

"Armadillos (tátu) are usually routed from their holes with a long flexible midrib of motacú palm, and are clubbed as they come out. If caught outside their holes they are shot in the head with an [27] arrow. The same methods are used with the paca (titími). The agouti (taiku) is more generally shot while feeding on wild fruits which have dropped from the trees in the forest. "

1: Holmberg--27 [3] (1941-42) 1950 Siriono
116, 226, 136

"Although I have seen some 15 edible varieties of tropical fish, the Siriono rarely attempt to catch more than four: catfish, bagre, bentones, and yeyú. Occasionally, one of the larger fishes, such as the pacú, is shot when feeding on chonta fruits that have dropped into a river or stream, but this is rare."

1: Holmberg--28 [4] (1941-42) 1950 Siriono
116, 136, 222, 262

"The digging of roots and plants and the grubbing of worms are almost negligible occupations among the Siriono, and provide hardly any part of the diet. The same may be said for the collecting of insects, which was never done insofar as I observed. Certain varieties of shelled invertebrates—a mollusk called urúkwa and a mussel called yisíta—exist in the region, but these are likewise not sought for food, although their shells are gathered for tools. Several species of tortoise (konómbi) are extensively collected for food. These are highly prized, as they can be tied up and cooked when desired."

1: Holmberg--35 [4] (1941-42) 1950 Siriono
116, 252, 263, 136

"No condiments of any kind are used in cooking. Even salt (no deposits of this product are found in the area) is unknown to the Siriono living under aboriginal conditions. Evidently the foods they eat contain enough salt to produce the hydrochloric acid necessary for digestion."